

Roland M. Toups
Chair

Frances T. Henry
Vice Chair

Pat A. Strong
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
*Commissioner of
Higher Education*



BOARD OF REGENTS

**P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.state.la.us**

William D. Blake
Scott O. Brame
Richard E. D'Aquin
Reggie Dupré
Stanley J. Jacobs
Robert W. Levy
William A. Oliver
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
William Clifford Smith
Artis L. Terrell, Jr.
Adonis Ducre, Student Member

March 25, 2004

Contact: Kevin Hardy

College Student Preparation Level Up, "Low-Completer" Programs To Be Reviewed

Freshmen enrolled at Louisiana's public, four-year universities would be significantly more likely to qualify for admission to their current institutions under the impending Board of Regents four-year-university admission requirements than their counterparts in 1999. The more stringent admissions requirements, called for in Louisiana's *Master Plan For Public Postsecondary Education*, will take effect at most public, four-year universities by Fall 2005.

The Board of Regents received a report comparing admissibility under the new requirements of the state's freshman class of 1999 with those of the freshman class of 2003. The data show that while 32.7 % of the 1999 class would not have qualified for the institution in which they enrolled, less than 20% of the 2003 class would fail to meet the requirements. Moreover, when adjusted for the exceptions allowed in the new requirements the number is reduced to 8.3%.

"This report demonstrates that our efforts to educate students and parents about the importance of proper high school preparation - particularly in light of the new requirements - and the targeted marketing and recruitment efforts of our colleges and universities are having the desired effect," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "These numbers indicate that the change in enrollment dynamics in 2005 should be manageable. And as these better-prepared students become upperclassmen, retention and graduation rates will continue to improve as well."

The Board also approved a review of the need for 150 academic programs at public colleges and universities across the state due to low numbers of graduates or "completers" of the programs. This is the fourth such review since 1986. Institutions will now be required to show evidence of the need for the identified programs, which will be reviewed by the Board of Regents before final decisions are made.

"These reviews are necessary to ensure that we are delivering educational services to Louisiana's students in the most cost-efficient manner possible," said Commissioner Savoie. "We consider every issue and justification in arriving at our decisions, but the bottom line is that we can not afford to support non-productive programs."

(More)

Student Preparation

ADD ONE

Since 1994, some 1,700 programs have been reviewed and 336 have been eliminated because of low completers or duplication at an institution in the same region.

In other action, the Board of Regents approved a measure to administratively separate the schools of Graduate Studies and Allied Health at LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport from LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans. The Shreveport schools were originally established as branches of schools at LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, but since that time have evolved into functionally-independent entities. The administrative change will allow the two Shreveport schools to operate more efficiently under direct administration by the LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport. Both LSUHSC-Shreveport and LSUHSC-New Orleans were in favor of the change.